

REMARKS

The applicants have carefully considered the Office action dated March 20, 2006. By way of this Response, claims 33, 35, 39-41, 43, 45, 46 and 48 have been cancelled without prejudice to their further prosecution. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the applicants wish to thank Examiner Phan for his courtesy in engaging in a telephonic interview with the undersigned on April 17, 2006 and his fairness in reaching an efficient solution to further examination in this application. In particular, during that interview, the status of the previously allowed claims 15-17, 23, and 47 (rewritten in independent form as claim 51) was discussed. Specifically, the undersigned indicated that there was minimal burden on the Office in continuing to maintain these already searched and allowed claims in the application with the claims of Group I. Because claims 15-17, 23, and 47 (rewritten in independent form as claim 51) were already examined and found to be allowable, it was most efficient and fair (particularly in view of the extra claim fees applicant had spent in writing objected-to claims in independent form based on the PTO's prior determination of allowability) to maintain these claims in this application for further examination with the claims of Group I. The Examiner agreed to this approach, and the undersigned, therefore, elected Group I and claims 15-17, 23, and 47 (rewritten in independent form as claim 51) for further examination in this application. Accordingly, claims 33, 35, 39-41, 43, 45, 46 and 48 have been cancelled without prejudice to their further prosecution.

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Response to the Office Action Dated March 20, 2006**

Per the foregoing, applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I together with claims 15-17, 23, 47 and 51 for further prosecution in this case without traverse.

During the above-noted interview, the undersigned reiterated the definition of a walk-behind walker as explained in applicant's prior response and indicated that there was no suggestion for modifying the prior art to employ such a walk-behind walker.

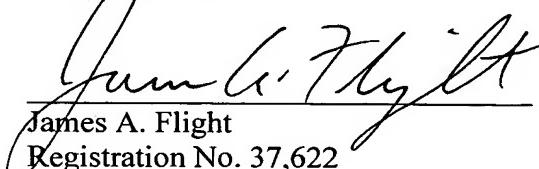
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 17, 2006